discoveries which had recently been made, and to which the attention of architects and antiquaries had been particularly directed.

Mr. Godwin, Fellow, thought it evident that an awakened desire exists on the part of the public for coloured decorations in their houses, proportionate to the extent of their means. The public had had enough of flat white ceilings. It would depend very much on architects themselves how that desire should be directed and encouraged. The great difficulty hitherto had been to find competent persons, who would decorate ceilings and walls at rates of remuneration which would render the undertaking, in a pecuniary sense, practicable. Such a class of artists he, however, believed might be expected from the Schools of Design, with whose aid, taking advantage of the present turn in favour of art, we might hope to see sculpture, painting, and architecture united in our buildings. In his own practice, he had endeavoured to introduce coloured decoration, which had always proved satisfactory to the parties interested; and although in the first instance some objections might have existed, yet the example thus set in one building had been soon followed in others. It would be highly desirable thus to improve and decorate the plain whited interior of St. Paul's, a subject to which he believed that the dean and chapter had for some time given their serious attention. This proposition, if strenuously carried into effect, would be most honourable and encouraging to artists, as well as to all parties concerned in the work of improvement.

The Chairman would remind the last speaker that an offer was once made to decorate the interior of St. Paul's, but that it was declined by the authorities of that day, from what they thought a conscientious and proper motive. He, however, trusted that the remarks just made would not pass unheeded, for he had derived great pleasure from examining the churches of St. Vincent de Paul, and Notre Dame de Lorette, at Paris, which present specimens of Polychromic decoration applied to a style, in which we had not been accustomed to find it. These splendid examples prove that such decoration, with painted windows, &c., need not be confined to the mediæval buildings, but that it may be successfully applied to such edifices as the Cathedral of St. Paul's.

Mr. Ashpitel said, that having experienced the difficulty of preventing injury to decorative painting by the climate and by the use of gas, he had attempted lately to unite outline ornament in relief, with polychromy; so that if the colour should become faded, or altogether disappear, the outlines would still remain, and the whole decoration could be easily and cheaply restored by an inferior hand.

Mr. Scoles, Hon. Sec., observed, that the Egyptians never painted on a flat surface, all their painted decorations being either in intaglio or in slight relief; but, he thought, that if in this country the expense of modelling or carving were to be added to that of the painting, the cost would be as great as that of renewing the painting on a flat surface.

Mr. Papworth, Fellow, considered that the architects of the last century employed the kind of decoration that Mr. Ashpitel had suggested, as might be seen in the works of the brothers Adams. He thought that architects during the last fifteen or twenty years had neglected to make themselves acquainted with the practical part of this subject, and by so doing had allowed the class of decorators to obtain their present position. He would beg to dissent from one of Mr. Wyatt's remarks,—that objects in mural decorations should not appear too round, and that they should only have, as it were, a half-and-half projection.

Mr. M. D. Wyatt explained his meaning to be, that strong projections and shadows should be avoided, so that no particular portion of the wall should appear to project before the rest; not that the figures should appear to be absolutely flat, but that the whole should appear under a quiet tone of chiaro-scuro, which would not attract the eye to any distinct portion of it.

Mr. G. G. Scott thought the pavement the only part of a building in which the effect of roundness in the figures and ornaments would be decidedly objectionable, on account of the unpleasant feeling which would be produced on walking over it. He then alluded to the remains of a pavement in a church at St. Omer, near Calais, which was formed of white stones, on which the figures and ornaments had been drawn, and the groundwork had been slightly sunk out to a depth sufficient to receive a chocolate-coloured cement. He thought such a pavement might have, in some places, greater effect than encaustic tiles.

THE ADELAIDE WINDOW, WORCESTER.—The committee for the erection of a memorial window to the late Queen Dowager, in Worcester, decided, on the 30th ult., to employ Mr. O'Connor, of London, as the artist. Mr. Rogers, of Worcester, lost the appointment by one vote only.

Miscellanea.

DERBY.—St. Werburgh's Church was re-opened last week, by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, after the extensive alterations and additions made to it during the summer.—— The Board of Health for the borough of Derby have ordered the removal of a portion of the filth from the town, to a reservoir at a distance, there to be converted into manure, and sold to the farmers. According to the *Derby Reporter*, it is expected to repay the cost, with good interest. It is presumed that if the experiment is successful it will be largely acted upon.* The "Derwent" will thus be cleansed, and the surrounding *terra firma* enriched. It would be well if the corporation were as alive to the *appearance* of the town. A new street has been formed from the market-place to the new bridge over the Derwent—the opening of which we noticed some week or two since—and some miserable and awkward-looking property lines it on either side. Instead of purchasing each frontage, and securing a handsome elevation to the houses, they have resolved to have nothing to do with it. The consequence will be, that buildings of all sizes, shapes, and manners will be erected, after the whim of individuals, and one of the finest opportunities of beautifying the town be lost. It is to be hoped they will reconsider this, especially as a good portion of the road was generously presented them—together with 500*l.* towards the bridge—by one of their own members. Let them bear in mind that the extra value of the frontage when thus improved would go to repay the outlay.——The extensive corn-store at Nottingham, for the Midland Railway, about 100 feet by 80 feet, and 95 feet high from foundation to roof, and to hold 10,000 quarters, is being rapidly proceeded with.——The Derby Water-Works are completed, and the water laid on. Tenders for the new lodge, and cottage for engineer, were lodged last week.

EXCAVATIONS AT FOUNTAINS ABBEY.—Earl de Grey has directed that the excavations at the abbey shall be proceeded with; and that that portion of encumbered ground south of the chapter-house, kitchen, and refectory, be effectually cleared. The labourers have, therefore, commenced operations at the base of the south wall of the refectory, close to where the river Skell emerges from the cloisters, and at the farthest point on that side of the abbey which requires excavating. As yet, the works have not proceeded far; but what has been disclosed is interesting, and proves that the whole of the south end of the refectory has originally stood in the water. A deep water channel, under a spacious round arch, runs under the entire breadth of the apartment.

CAMBRIDGE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—The last general meeting of the Society, for the Michaelmas Term, was held at the rooms, on the 28th ult., the Rev. T. S. Woollaston, M.A., in the chair. A paper was read by the Rev. C. R. Manning, M.A., on "The Monumental Effigy in West Walton Church," which was followed by a paper on "The Art of Illuminating, by Mr. G. Rowe; after which, a short paper was read on Probus Church, Cornwall, also by Mr. Rowe.

CROSSING WELLINGTON-STREET (SOUTH), STRAND.—May I venture, through your medium, to suggest the expediency of erecting a small obelisk or pillar, surmounted by a gas lamp, and surrounded by two or three slight posts, in the centre of the crossing of the above street? In consequence of the extension of the South-Western line to the Waterloo-road, the traffic over the bridge has increased to an immense degree, so that it is often difficult to advance or recede to the pavement on the sudden approach of vehicles, and therefore such a plan as I now propose would afford pedestrians a very convenient resort from the danger of being run over, and would not occupy much space.—Z. W. D.

NEWCASTLE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—At a meeting which took place last week, Dr. Charlton read a paper on the subject of the ancient remains recently found at Hawkhill, near Alnwick. Later in the evening a paper was read by Mr. G. Bouchier Richardson, "On the Great Gates of the Town Wall of Newcastle-upon-Tyne." Mr. Richardson showed, that in most cases where grants are mentioned for *building* the walls, they can only refer to *repairs* or restorations to a greater or less extent. He also showed that it was unlikely that such a period as twenty or twenty-five years should elapse between the commencement and completion of the walls (as is stated), when it is considered that the town would thereby be kept in a state of continual insecurity—much less, as Gray has it, that the walls commenced in John's days were not completed till those of Edward III. It is lamentable that we should not have a single gate "to the fore," or even a tower in a decent state of preservation. All have been more or less tampered with; large fragments of the wall are continually being removed; and in a few years (he remarked) they will not have it in their power to refer to a single example of our ancient girdle of defences.

RAILWAYS AND ROADS IN HILLY COUNTRIES.—Mr. W. H. Villiers Sankey, C. E., proposes, in a periodical named *The Advocate*, that in districts where very steep gradients would otherwise be necessary in the laying out of railway lines or roads, the lock principle, carried out in canal engineering, might be usefully applied in the form of hydraulic lifts for raising and lowering trains, &c. from one level or reach to another. Thus, he observes, might the locomotive and its train be brought to and from the very summit of even a lofty mountainous country, or into and out of the deep recesses of mines. To many important towns, as yet beyond the reach of railway traffic, this plan, he remarks, would be of essential benefit: it might have obviated the boring of the Alps, according to M. Dandelin, of the Corps de Ponts et Chaussées—by an Alpine *lift! et error nullus*.

CLUB FOR THE ARTS, &c.—With reference to your correspondent, H. B., I would ask what objection there could be in forming a club, wherein not only architects, but painters, sculptors, engravers, engineers, and scientific men should form a portion of the institution or club. It appears to me that this would have its advantages in many respects. First, it might lighten the terms of subscription and entrance fee: in the next place, by combining the various professions, many would feel an additional interest in various contributions, and ultimately might form a most interesting gallery of art, as well as library, together with a lecture-room, &c., and in such a locality as that named by your correspondent, it would be very desirable.—A SUB.

WORKS AT ST. MARY'S, BRIDGEWATER.—Considerable works have been going on here for some time past. The *Bridgewater Times* of last week gives a long notice of the progress which has been made. The clerestory wall, down to the apex of the nave arches, has been rebuilt. The nave roof is new: it is entirely of oak, constructed on the hammer-beam principle; and was adopted with a view to the re-use of the old rafters. The principals, the purlins, moulded ribs, hammer-beam, and wall pieces, have been formed out of the old materials taken from the beams and joists of various floors that existed in the church. The principals spring from corbel angels carved in stone. The clerestory windows are much larger than the old ones, and will be filled with Stansell's dispersed glass, having an ivy-leaf stained margin surrounding the lights. Mr. Breakspear is the architect, and Mr. Wainwright the contractor.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—Mr. Bakewell writes us to say, in reference to Mr. Bain's claim as originator of the copying or autographic telegraph, that "The electro-chemical telegraph, now in use in the United States, does not copy writing or printing, but only makes dots and strokes, which form a hieroglyphical alphabet, in imitation of Professor Morse's plan;" and that "Mr. Bain's invention of 1843 was intended only for copying metal types and other projecting surfaces, but it was found to be impracticable, and he subsequently patented the dotting telegraph now employed in America."

EXETER BATHS AND LAUNDRIES COMPETITION.—The competition for the above-named building has been decided in favour of the design submitted by Messrs. R. Brandon and R. Ritchie. The design of the last-named gentleman for the baths and laundries at Greenwich is now rapidly progressing.

* Suggested in THE BUILDER, page 330, ante.

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